

these men were the servants of God. This she continued until Paul cast out the demon. This caused a great confusion as she was a source of great gain to her owners. They had the missionaries arrested and put to jail. Read the story.

1. *Scripture Light.*—False accusations Matt. 4:11; Mark 14:37-58; Luke 23:2. Paul's sufferings, II Cor. 11:23-24, contrast with Acts 26:10. Praise in suffering, Job 35:10; Matt. 5:10-12; Rom. 5:3; 8:18; II Cor. 12:10; James 1:2; I Peter 1:7. Read also,

Demons silenced, Luke 4:33-44.

In stripes and prisons, II Cor. 11:21-33.

Suffering for Christ, I Peter 4:12-19.

The Need of Salvation, Rom. 3:10-18.

Justified by Grace, Rom. 3:19-31.

2. *In Prison.*—Why was Paul in prison? They put him in on false charges made by the owners of the slave girl, because their unjust gains were interfered with. When the Gospel strikes at the avarice of the people it always makes a commotion. What was true in the charges? That they taught a new religion. This they did not deny. What was false in the charges? That they made a tumult in the city. Note that here we have the first *heathen* persecution of Paul. Before this the Jews waged persecution.

3. *The Wonderful Religious Service.*—

1. The unusual hour of prayer: midnight. 2. The singular temple: a prison. 3. The remarkable conductors of the service: Paul and Silas in the stocks. 4. The strange congregation: the prisoners in their cells.—*K. Gerok.*

4. *Conversion of the Jailer.*—Why did the jailer suppose his prisoners had fled? What did he want to do? Why? How was he saved? What great question did he ask? From what did he want to be saved? Did he know he was lost? How? What was he to do? What is believing on Christ? Trusting him as your Savior. Find some New Testament conversions. What was common to all? 1. They believed in Christ. 2. They repented of sin. 3. They were baptized. Are all these conditions of salvation now? Mention some sudden conversions. By what power were they all brought about?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

1. *Touched the Pocketbook.*—The Gospel never makes so much of a stir as when it touches men's gains. The conversion of Lydia made no disturbance, for Lydia had been a good woman and her conversion from Judaism to Christianity did not interfere with wicked men's gains. Not so when the poor slave girl was converted. Their "craft" was in danger and this aroused their fury. So it is. Rum-sellers

do not care how much ministers of the Gospel work among good quiet people, visit the sick and give attention to the old and the needy. But let the minister attack the evils of the liquor traffic and in a general way assail the sins and the vices of the day, then hatred and persecution begin.

2. *Praying and Singing.*—How could Paul and Silas pray under such circumstances? It was surely a strange place to hold a prayer meeting. The two missionaries were in pain and trouble. What was the secret? Faith in God gave them peace in this trying hour. The peace of God which the world can not give was in their hearts. Paul knew then what he afterwards wrote, "All things work together for good to them that love God." We may have sweet peace in the midst of our troubles. Faith in God will give us joy in our sorest trials and disappointments.

3. *A Great Question.*—When the jailer saw what had taken place he came and cried out, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" This was an important question. It implies first that the jailer was lost, for there would be no need of salvation if there was nothing lost. But it implies also that the jailer *realized* that he was lost. Unless the sinner is cognizant of the fact that he is lost he will never cry out what he must do to be saved. He *knew* he was lost. Would that thousands of others would know as much.

4. *Fruits of Faith.*—Here was a genuine conversion. He became tender and compassionate. He sought to relieve the sufferings of the men who had brought the message of salvation to him. He set meat before them. This is the effect of Christianity on the hearts and lives of people. It makes them gentle, tender, compassionate. It makes them love the people of God.

WHAT WE SHOULD DO.

1. Praise, pray and sing, even in prison.
2. Let your life witness against sin.
3. Look to God for salvation.
4. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Point sinners to the Lamb of God.
6. Continue in the word of God.

The best principle of education is to develop the man himself, heart, mind and body, and put his powers to their proper use. Education is to enlarge the soul. It is to teach us how to live; it is to give us the great facts of life and show us the true principle of life, and open to us the true goal of life. A complete education is something more than an accomplishment. It fits for actual life.—*Rev. John Barbour, Presbyterian, Birmingham, Ala.*

The Christian Life.

THE AWAKING.

MRS. MERRELL E. GATES.

One day the fingers of the Lord
Upon my eyes shall lie;
And when their tender weight shall lift,
'Twill be eternity.

But while He holds my yielding lids
With that soft force of His,
My spirit shall not sleep, but wake
Into His utter bliss.

—*Sunday School Times.*

"HE REDEEMED ME."

An incident is related of a man who before the war was travelling in the South, and became much interested in a young colored girl, purchasing her from her master and giving her her liberty. After the bargain had been completed with her owner, the man found difficulty in getting the girl to realize that she was actually free. At last it did dawn upon her in all its fullness of meaning; but instead of exulting in her newly-gained liberty, she exclaimed: "O, he redeemed me; I will follow him; I can never thank him enough; I will serve him all my life!" She accompanied him to his Northern home, and as people often remarked her loving attention to every wish of her newly-found friend, it was her gladly-given and ever-sufficient reply: "He redeemed me! He redeemed me!"

So we have, as Christians, One who ransomed us. He is our Redeemer, our Saviour, our Friend. Is it strange, then, that we should find "the love of Christ constraining us?" This is the true motive to consecration.

If we allow this thought to be ever present with us, "He redeemed me!" every sacrifice required in His service will be a joy and a delight to us. We shall count nothing too dear to render to Him in view of this great fact of our redemption. This is what made the fires welcome to the holy martyrs. The love of Christ constrained them to go with triumph into the flames.—*Guide to Holiness.*

HOW SPURGEON PRAYED,

The great men of God have been men of power. The greatest preacher in our century by far—and I mean a preacher; I don't mean the most brilliant sermon maker, or the most learned Bible student, but I mean the most extraordinary proclaimer of Christ to dying men—was my beloved friend into whose study I went last summer; and when I looked into his empty chair, his dear, widowed wife and son Tom and I had a good cry over that empty seat. There has not been left a